



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## PRESS RELEASE

### U.S. and Open Society Institute Team Up to Build a New NGO Center in Prilep

The NGO Support Center in Prilep opened its new facility February 7th, built in part by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), a part of the U.S. Mission in Macedonia. The project was carried out in cooperation with the Foundation Open Society Institute – Macedonia and the Municipality of Prilep.

“This center provides a venue for citizens seeking to be involved in local decision making to come together and address community issues,” said Michael Eddy, Director of the Democracy and Local Governance Office at USAID. “Successful decentralization requires that citizens have a voice and that local governments are responsive. I see both of these things here, which is why USAID is proud to help construct a more robust NGO Support Center in Prilep.”

The Local Self Government of Prilep applied to the USAID Decentralization Project’s Municipal Good Governance Fund (MGGF) to renovate the NGO Support Center. The fund exists to assist Macedonian municipalities with community improvement projects related to the new responsibilities that come with decentralization. The new center is built on public land that previously held an abandoned building. The NGO Support Center has operated in Prilep for over five years, working to develop and improve civil society linkages between the local government and the NGO Sector. The new building will be used by NGOs of the Prilep region to hold meetings, workshops, and seminars on issues of local importance.

#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia’s transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>